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# THE SOUTHWESTERN HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

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## THE HISTORY OF A TEXAS SLAVE PLANTATION 1831-63\*

ABIGAIL CURLEE

### I

#### JAMES F. PERRY'S REMOVAL TO TEXAS FROM MISSOURI AND SETTLEMENT AT PEACH POINT, 1831

In May, 1824, Stephen Fuller Austin and James E. Brown Austin were making plans to move their mother, the widow of Moses Austin, and their widowed sister, Mrs. Emily Margaret B. Bryan, from Missouri to Texas. Stephen drew up minute and definite instructions for James E. B., who was to go to Missouri and conduct them to Texas. He wrote:

Be very particular to collect all the little property that Emily has and provide well for them on the journey, bring all their beds and bedding and pot kettle and crockery ware &c that are of light carriage, and bring all kinds of garden seeds and roots, particularly nectarenes Peach, Pairs Grapes &c &c—Currants—Gooseberry—Rose Roots. . . . I am most in favor of your coming by land—bring the family of negroes that Emily has at all hazards and I will settle with Bryan for them—if you can get Luck and Babtiste and Pool without paying too much money do so and not without

You must bring a good sett of blacksmith tools—Some homeade cloth for me for summer and winter clothing. I wish all the family to wear nothing else—

. . . have a good tent provided for the road and bring as

\*Thesis presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of the University of Texas for the degree of Master of Arts, June, 1922.

much furniture as you think a light wagon can haul from Natchitoches—<sup>1</sup>

Although the plan of the Austin brothers did not materialize, this is the beginning of the Perry interest in Texas. For the next trace of Mrs. Bryan is a letter<sup>2</sup> from Solomon R. Bolin, telling of her marriage to James Franklin Perry at Hazel Run, September 23, 1824.<sup>3</sup> Mrs. Moses Austin died before she could make her trip to Texas.

Stephen Austin still desired that his sister should make her home in Texas. This desire increased after he became accustomed to her marriage and saw the opportunity for wealth in Texas. He was unwilling for them to make the move, however, until Mr. Perry had inspected the country for himself. By 1827 he was advising a visit to Texas, saying, "I shall expect you in October next without fail."<sup>4</sup> Perry did not make the tour of inspection, and Austin became more urgent as he saw the assured future for Texas. At the end of 1829 he wrote that he had petitioned "the Govt. of the State for eleven Leagues of land for you on Galveston Bay, within Six or seven Miles of Galveston harbor, if the half of that is granted it will be a fortune."

There is a fine opportunity here for a good Merchant, and a regular trading schooner to ship produce such as corn, lard, etc. to Tampico and Vera Cruz would make money rapidly— There is considerable cotton made and some sugar— Beef Tallow, pork, Lard, Mules, etc.

The 11 Leagues I have petitioned for will cost you about \$1000 including everything, and you will be allowed 4, 5, and 6 years to pay a part of that in and the balance can be settled by me easily. . . . Try and bring some of the breeds of English cattle, nature never made a better place for stock than the land I have asked for you—oysters and fish and fowls at your door etc the latitude is about 29°—10'—it is about 80 miles from this place [San Felipe de Austin]. . . . Bring all your capital.<sup>5</sup>

In this same letter Austin instructed Perry to indenture his

<sup>1</sup>Memorandum for my brother, May 4, 1824. Austin Papers, Miscellaneous.

<sup>2</sup>Solomon R. Bolin to Stephen F. Austin, December 5, 1824. Austin Papers.

<sup>3</sup>Moses Austin's Record. Austin Papers.

<sup>4</sup>S. F. Austin to J. F. Perry, May 26, 1827. Austin Papers.

<sup>5</sup>S. F. Austin to J. F. and E. Perry, December 12, 1829. Austin Papers.

servants by hire or contract before a judge or clerk, and to bring furniture enough to be comfortable. He mentioned twice in this one letter that Perry was to bring seeds. He had asked, he said, that Perry might have two years within which to occupy the land. Apparently Austin had not yet convinced Perry of the future of Texas, for he continued to advise him to come. Later he wrote, "Bring bedding and furniture. . . . We are beginning to get up in this country and decent and fine cloths have taken the place of buckskin."<sup>6</sup> Within a few days he wrote, "The fall is the best time to remove on a/c of health." On receipt of the grant which he had petitioned for, Austin wrote, as follows:

I now have the pleasure to inform you that I yesterday received the grant from the Governor. he has had the goodness to grant to James F. Perry and to his wife Emily Margarita Austin Eleven Leagues of land to be selected on any vacant lands in Austin's colony and he has issued all the necessary orders to the General land Commissioner to give a patent in due form as the colonization law requires. . . .

The grant is subject to the condition that you remove and settle here with your family within two years from the first day of last January.<sup>8</sup>

But before this letter of March 28 was written, James F. Perry was on his way to Texas. His note book kept on the tour of Texas indicates that he left Potosi, Missouri, Sunday, March 21, 1830, "for the purpose of viewing Austins Colony in Texas. arrived at Herculanium on the same evening there I had to remain the 22d and 23d waiting for a pasage to New Orleans. . . . March 31st Wednesday Land at New Orleans untill friday the 10th day of April, at 12 o'clock saild in the Schooner Pocahontas for the port of Brazoria in Texas—" Mr. Perry continues his day to day account with details of the trip, landing, tour of Texas to find Austin, and the hospitality extended him by the Texans. He thus described his impressions of the country:

The country from the mouth of Brasos for five or six miles is all a prararia near the sea shore sandy then low and marchey.

<sup>6</sup>S. F. Austin to J. F. and Emily Perry, January 3, 1830. Austin Papers.

<sup>7</sup>S. F. Austin to J. F. Perry, January 16, 1830. Austin Papers.

<sup>8</sup>S. F. Austin to J. F. and E. Perry, March 28, 1830. Austin Papers.

gradually rises a little untill the timber commences is generally a clay land. and looks poor much appearances of craw fish. although the land looks unproductive there is emence coats of fine Grass growing on it and affords emence pasturage for Stock of all kind. from where the Timber commences on the Brasos the Bottom[s] of the Brassos are heavily timbered as far up as I have yet been say for one to six and eight miles on each side of the river and in some places wider the timber consists of live oak Large quantities of it black oak Red Oak post oak white oak pecan ash mulberry Ellam cottonwood and sundry other not recollected the undergrowth is wild peach [and] sasafras.<sup>9</sup>

Austin wrote Mrs. Perry on May 15 that Mr. Perry liked the location.<sup>10</sup> Perry evidently made arrangements with Austin to superintend the preparations of the new home. Austin was anxious and willing to prepare his sister's home, because of his desire to have her and her children near him. Austin wrote that they should get passports from James W. Breedlove, Vice-Consul for Mexico at New Orleans. In the same letter he reported the Steam Saw Mill in successful operation.<sup>11</sup> On July 4, 1830, Austin wrote, "I have engaged bricks and shingles etc to put a house in this place for you to winter in and will have it ready, and a store room—" <sup>12</sup> But the building plans for the Perry home did not go smoothly. Austin wrote in September:

I have no house up nor under way— . . . The Steam Mill did not get under way as soon as was expected and has broken down several times and done but little— I am now contracting with a carpenter to put up a frame store in this place and will try to have it ready by the time Hunter arrives—<sup>13</sup> . . . the place where I originally intended to settle all my family is at peach point below Brazoria, on the Sea Shore prairie at the edge of the timber 6 miles from sea beach—

I am expecting instructions as to the introduction of negroes, and as I have now no hope of seeing you this fall there will be time enough to send them to you before I leave here for Saltillo.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>9</sup>Perry's Note Book, March 21, 1830, to April 8, 1830. Austin Papers, Miscellaneous.

<sup>10</sup>S. F. Austin to Emily Perry, May 16, 1830. Austin Papers.

<sup>11</sup>S. F. Austin to Jas. F. Perry, June 15, 1830. Austin Papers.

<sup>12</sup>Austin to Perry, July 4, 1830. Austin Papers.

<sup>13</sup>A reference to William W. Hunter, Perry's commercial partner.

<sup>14</sup>Austin to Perry, September 22, 1830. Austin Papers. Austin was a member of the State Congress, which met at Saltillo.

James Perry and William W. Hunter established a store at San Felipe de Austin before Mr. Perry moved his family to Texas. Austin wrote in December, 1830:

Your goods by the Nelson arrived safe John Austin came up yesterday and has stored them all up in good order— Nothing will be opened untill Hunter arrives—I shall have to use some of the nails to finish the store house— . . . The frame is up so that the building will be all ready by the time Hunter arrives he can get the goods up—<sup>15</sup>

Hunter reached San Felipe on January 12, 1831, and began the business. The next day after his arrival, Hunter wrote to a merchant in New Orleans:

This will inform you of my arrival in this place on yesterday The country I am as well pleased with as I Calculated on being I think the prospect pretty good for trade here there are but few goods at this time they appear to bring a tolerable profit. I have been somewhat disappointed in Consequence of my not being able to get a house. I will not be able to get to Making Sales So Soon on a/c of it, and Of course will not be able to do quite as well as if I could have opened immediately.<sup>16</sup>

According to Austin Records, James F. Perry and his family left Potosi, Missouri, on June 7, 1831, for Texas and arrived at San Felipe de Austin on August 14.<sup>17</sup> The family consisted of Mrs. Perry, her six children—William Joel, Moses Austin, Guy M., and Mary Bryan, and Stephen and Eliza Perry—and Perry's niece Lavinia. Evidently they did not remain in San Felipe long, for a note in the *Texas Planter* of November 16, 1853, says that they moved in the winter of 1831 to Chocolate Bayou in Brazoria County, and in 1832 removed to Peach Point, ten miles below Brazoria.<sup>18</sup> It was late in 1832 when Perry moved to Peach Point, for he said in September, "I am now living near the west end of Galveston Bay Near the head of the tide on a small stream called Chocolate about 8 miles from the bay. a verry pleasant situation and an excellent situation

<sup>15</sup>Austin to Perry, December 9, 1830. Austin Papers.

<sup>16</sup>Hunter to—[Merchant in New Orleans], January 13, 1831. Perry and Hunter's Letter Book. Austin Papers.

<sup>17</sup>Moses Austin's Record. Austin Papers, Miscellaneous.

<sup>18</sup>Clipping from *Texas Planter*, Brazoria, November 16, 1853. Austin Papers, Miscellaneous.

for Raising Stock." He was undecided at this time where to move, for he continued, "we are situated to[o] far from a neighbourhood and can therefore have no school since I bought Hunter out it will be necessary to move either to San Felipe where the goods now are or to Brazoria where we will have the advantages of a good school."<sup>19</sup> Austin wrote later, "After much perplexity I have finally closed the division of the Peach point tract and taken the lower half you will therefore chuse your situation below the division line which Borden will run—I shall divide the point into two tracts and you will take the upper one adjoining the division line."<sup>20</sup> In his autobiography Guy M. Bryan briefly outlined the coming to Texas and final settlement at Peach Point:

In the Spring of 1831, I came with my step-father and Mother to Texas. We, our family and negroes, travelled by land, having two horse wagons and carriage. I riding a mule all the way from Missouri to San Felipe, Texas, reaching there on the 15th day of August; where Mother and children remained until the Spring of 1832 at which time we moved to our homestead prepared by Mr. Perry on Pleasant Bayou, a branch of Chocolate Bayou now in Brazoria County, where Mr. Perry established a ranch.

In December 1832, Mr. Perry moved to Peach Point, ten miles below Brazoria, West of the Brazos, where he established our permanent home.<sup>21</sup>

As Bryan stated, Peach Point continued to be the home of James F. Perry until his death of yellow fever at Biloxi, Mississippi, in 1853, when his son, Stephen S. Perry, inherited the plantation. It will be noted that Bryan's account varies from the Austin record in the date of arrival and also from the *Planter* in the date assigned for the move to Chocolate Bayou.

Perry's grant, as Austin wrote in 1829, was for eleven leagues; however, he received twelve. The title to the five leagues located on "Chocolate Bayou" was given August 25, 1831; as was that for the two leagues situated on the east side of Dickinson's Creek,

<sup>19</sup>Perry to McGready, September 12, 1832. Austin Papers.

<sup>20</sup>Austin to Perry, November 4, 1832. Austin Papers.

<sup>21</sup>Autobiographical sketch of Guy M. Bryan (1896). Copy in Archives, University of Texas.

and the one league on "Clear Creek one league from the mouth."<sup>22</sup> Under "Concessions and Augmentations," Perry was granted on October 28, 1831, one league situated "Between San Bernado and Bay Prairie and is N 25° The above league was first granted to Benj. Lindsey." On November 3, 1831 he was granted two leagues—"South of Yeagua and Joins N. Clay."<sup>23</sup> Perry was granted on December 6, 1832, one league, situated on "Yegua Davidson's Creek and is known as N 6."<sup>24</sup> Of this land granted to Perry, there were 45 labors of farming land and 255 labors of grazing land, making a total of 12 leagues.

## II

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF AGRICULTURE IN TEXAS, 1831-36

When Perry came to Texas, the country was sparsely settled from Bexar to the Sabine River. West of Bexar and extending to the Rio Grande, the country was unsettled.<sup>25</sup> He found the agricultural methods crude and good implements scarce. The people were, as a rule, living in log houses and cultivating the river bottom land. The bottom lands had to be cleared of timber or of cane. Mrs. Holley said that this cane land was prized, because it was rich alluvial soil. The cane-brakes could be cleared by burning the dead reeds. If the cane land was not cultivated, the cane was valuable as food for cattle and horses in winter, being young and tender when the grass was dead.<sup>26</sup> The prairie lands were generally considered more suitable for grazing than farming. As late as 1850, it was the belief that the timbered portions of Texas were best adapted to agriculture. The vast prairies were regarded as valueless except for grazing and stock raising. Also it was an axiom that farming could not succeed

<sup>22</sup>List of Titles to settle 300 Families within the Ten Border Leagues on the Gulf of Mexico, Coast Contract No. 3, page 42 of Title Book. Austin Papers.

<sup>23</sup>Title Book, Contract No. 2, p. 34. Austin Papers, Miscellaneous.

<sup>24</sup>Title Book. Titles made under settling 500 families, 1827, 1828, 1831, 1832, 1833; p. 33. Austin Papers, Miscellaneous.

<sup>25</sup>Colonel J. N. Almonte's "*Statistical Notice*" in Kennedy's *Texas: The Rise, Progress and Prospects of the Republic of Texas*, II, 72.

<sup>26</sup>Holley, *Texas* (1836), 87.



west of the Brazos.<sup>27</sup> Abundant pasturage was afforded on the thin and sandy coast land for stock of all varieties.

In 1834 the country was divided into the three political departments of Bexar, Brazos, and Nacogdoches. The Bexar Department was largely peopled by Mexicans. Almonte says there were no negro laborers here. All the provisions raised by the inhabitants were consumed in the district. The wild horse when caught was cheap. Cattle were cheap, a cow and calf being considered equal to ten dollars. This was the condition all over the colony. Mrs. Harris said that there was little money in Texas. Her father received cattle and hogs in lieu of money for his practice as a physician, a cow and a calf passing as ten dollars.<sup>28</sup> In the Bexar region there were only five thousand or so head of sheep. They exported from eight to ten thousand skins of various kinds, and imported a few articles from New Orleans.

The Department of the Brazos was the section that Perry was interested in, for it was here that Austin's Colony was located. San Felipe, Columbia, Matagorda, Gonzales, and Mina were the five municipalities of this department and in addition there were considerable towns at Brazoria, Harrisburg, Velasco, and Bolivar. Almonte estimated the population of the department at eight thousand, of which he thought one thousand were slaves.

Almonte said that around 2000 bales of cotton had been exported from the Brazos in 1833,<sup>29</sup> while Austin, who left Texas for the City of Mexico in April of 1833, had estimated that the crop for that year would be 7500 bales.<sup>30</sup> But there had been a big overflow in 1833, which had cut down the crop. Almonte said that five thousand bales had been exported in 1832. The maize crop in 1833 was over fifty thousand barrels, but none was exported. The cattle of the department Almonte set down at about twenty-five thousand head. The market cattle were driven to Natchitoches for sale. The cotton of the Brazos was exported to New Orleans and returned from 10 to 10½ cents per pound

<sup>27</sup>Wood, "Reminiscences of Texas and Texans Fifty Years Ago," in *The Quarterly of the Texas State Historical Association*, V, 115.

<sup>28</sup>Reminiscences of Mrs. Dilue Harris" in *Quarterly of Texas State Historical Association*, IV, 123.

<sup>29</sup>Almonte, "Statistical Observations," in Kennedy's *Texas*, II, 75.

<sup>30</sup>Austin's "Statistics of Texas" (1833) in Johnson-Barker, *A History of Texas and Texans*, I, 174-176.

after paying  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent duty in New Orleans. No sheep were raised here, but there were probably 50,000 hogs in the district.

Almonte calculated that the trade of the department had reached \$600,000 based on the production of 1832. The 5000 bales of cotton would bring in \$225,000, and 50,000 skins would be \$50,000, totaling \$275,000, while the sale of cattle and hogs would bring the total to this figure, \$600,000. This report estimated the imports at \$325,000.<sup>31</sup> Austin's report gave this district a large number of gins and mills, setting down in the municipalities of Austin and Brazoria thirty cotton-gins, two steam sawmills and grist mills, six water-power mills and many run by oxen and horses. There was one water-power mill for sawing lumber and running machinery in Gonzales.<sup>32</sup>

The Department of Nacogdoches contained four municipalities, Nacogdoches, San Augustine, Liberty, and Jonesboro, with a population of nine thousand, one thousand of this number being negroes. Besides the municipalities there were four other towns in this district: Anahuac, Bevil, Teran, and Teneha. This section was not as well developed as it should have been, Almonte thought. He somewhat unfairly attributed its backwardness to neglect and indifference of the empresarios. As a matter of fact, it was primarily due to restrictions of the Federal Government.

The trade of Nacogdoches was estimated by Almonte to be \$470,000. The exports were estimated at 2000 bales of cotton, 90,000 skins of deer, otter, and beaver, and 5000 head of cattle, equal in value to \$205,000. There was an excess of \$60,000 of imports over exports for the year, which fact Almonte accounted for by the stock in the stores of the dealers.

There were twice as many cattle in this department as in that of the Brazos, but the price of cattle per head was the same. There were sixty thousand head of swine, which would soon furnish an article of export.<sup>33</sup>

Almonte and Austin are both indefinite as to the number of gins and mills in this section. Austin said, "The municipalities

<sup>31</sup>Almonte's "Statistical Notice," in Kennedy's *Texas*, II, 75-76. Juan N. Almonte was commissioned by the Mexican government in 1834 to inspect and report on Texas.

<sup>32</sup>Austin, "*Statistics of Texas*," in Johnson-Barker, *Texas and Texans*, I, 174.

<sup>33</sup>Almonte's Statistical Notice, in Kennedy's *Texas*, II, 77.

of Liberty and Nacogdoches are very well provided with mills and gins, and there is great progress in this industry in all parts of Texas."<sup>34</sup>

As to transportation of their products, Austin mentioned a steam boat in the Bay of Galveston. He also indicated that a company had been formed to bring one to the Brazos river.<sup>35</sup> Apparently this plan was realized, for the next year Almonte reported a steam boat plying on the Brazos and two others expected for the Neches and Trinity rivers.<sup>36</sup> An item in the *Telegraph* in 1836 reported that another steam boat, the *Yellow Stone*, had arrived to run on the Brazos.<sup>37</sup> Plans for bettering the roads were going forward with rapidity, although the roads were described as fairly good as they were.

The statistics of both Almonte and Austin are open to question. Almonte's two months' tour was too brief for a comprehensive understanding of conditions, and Austin, although better informed than Almonte, may have exaggerated in the effort to make a strong case for Texas in its application for statehood.<sup>38</sup>

The labor on Texas farms was done by the farmer and his slaves, if he owned any.<sup>39</sup> The Texans were slave holders, but not on an extensive scale. Large plantations with a hundred or more negroes did not gain the foothold in Texas that they had in the old south. One negro family was more often the rule than a crew of fifty slaves. The farmer ordinarily worked side by side with his slaves. Colonel Jared E. Groce had about a hundred negroes, the largest number owned by one man in Texas prior to the revolution.<sup>40</sup> It was estimated in 1836 that there were 5000 negroes in Texas, 30,000 Anglo-Americans, 3470 Mexicans, and 14,200 Indians.<sup>41</sup> The estimate of 5000 negroes is a

<sup>34</sup>Austin's "Statistics of Texas," in Johnson-Barker, *Texas and Texans*, I, 174.

<sup>35</sup>Ibid., I, 175.

<sup>36</sup>Almonte's "Statistical Notice of Texas," in Kennedy's *Texas*, II, 78.

<sup>37</sup>*Telegraph and Texas Register*, January 24, 1836.

<sup>38</sup>E. C. Barker, in Johnson-Barker, *Texas and Texans*, I, 175.

<sup>39</sup>Bugbee's "Slavery in Texas," in *Political Science Quarterly*, XIII, 662-63.

<sup>40</sup>Register of Land Titles, General Land Office, Austin, Texas, Translation, I, 264, 265.

<sup>41</sup>Morfit to Forsyth, August 27, 1836, in Yoakum, *History of Texas*, II, 197.

rather large increase over the 2000 in Almonte's report, although there had been a rapid immigration in the latter part of 1834 and throughout 1835. Absentee ownership did not exist in Texas, nor was there much free labor. At this early date land was so cheap and so easily obtained that even the poor man had an opportunity to obtain a farm where he could make a living with a minimum amount of labor. It was the custom for neighbors to exchange labor. The work was often long and hard; and the returns, as now, were not always commensurate with the labor. Crude methods of cultivation, overflows, and drouths were the principal causes of poor yields.

All authorities agreed that cotton was the most extensively cultivated crop and the best adapted to the soil. The statistics of Almonte and Austin bear this out. Mrs. Holley's information seems to be inaccurate in her statement that Texas "has for some years, produced as much as 10,000 bales, with the prospect of 60,000 bales in 1836."<sup>42</sup> When it is recalled that 1836 was the year of the "runaway scrape" and that the men were in the army, this seems exaggerated, but she may have written this earlier.<sup>43</sup>

Cotton was planted late in February or early in March and it was ready for the first picking by the last of July or the middle of August, according to the season. Frequently they were picking as late as December.

Indian corn or maize was the staple food for man and beast. As late as 1856, Frederick Law Olmstead complained of the steady diet of corn-bread and bacon, which was set before him in his journey over Texas.<sup>44</sup> Two crops of corn were sometimes planted and harvested. The first one was planted about the middle of February, after there was little danger of a freeze, and harvested in the summer; the second crop was planted in June for fall harvesting. Mrs. Holley stated that seventy-five bushels to the acre had been gathered, but that this was not the rule, as the farmers did not put enough labor on the corn crop to produce that amount. Most of the crop was required for home consumption.<sup>45</sup> The *Texas Gazette* of May 22, 1830, republished a

<sup>42</sup>Holley, *Texas* (1836), 61.

<sup>43</sup>*Telegraph and Texas Register*, September 2, 1837.

<sup>44</sup>Olmstead, *A Journey Through Texas* (1857), 15, 116.

<sup>45</sup>Holley, *Texas* (1836), 62-63.

chapter of a book which stated that the "produce of last season consisted of 1000 bales of cotton, 150,000 bushels of corn, and 140 hogsheads of sugar. The cotton was mostly shipped to New Orleans, and the surplus corn and other products to Matamoros, Tampico, and Vera Cruz.<sup>46</sup> This article declared that wheat, rye, oats, and barley were grown to some extent in the undulating districts, where they yielded abundantly, but that the scarcity of mills and the low price discouraged their production. Austin, on the contrary, reported, "The sowing of wheat has not progressed so much, because the climate is not suitable for this grain in the settled region near the coast."<sup>47</sup>

If the farmer had sufficient force and suitable land, he usually tried his hand at raising sugar cane and manufacturing sugar and molasses. According to Mrs. Holley, sugar cane was beginning to be cultivated extensively in 1836. She described Texas cane as superior to that of both Arkansas and Louisiana.<sup>48</sup> In 1849 the *State Gazette* reported the average yield on a Brazos plantation to be half a hogshead to the acre, estimating 1000 pounds to the hogshead. The system of cultivation was not so advanced as in Louisiana.<sup>49</sup>

Tobacco and indigo were indigenous plants, but under Mexican law the tobacco trade was a state monopoly and production was restricted. Indigo was little cultivated. It was manufactured in families for domestic use, and was preferred to the imported indigo.<sup>50</sup>

Sweet potatoes were extensively cultivated upon the drier prairies. Melons abounded everywhere. Beans, peas, Irish potatoes, and a variety of vegetables were grown in the gardens. The Texans usually had a fall and winter garden as well as a spring and summer one. In 1830 James Hope, "gardner and seedsman," was advertising his Connecticut garden seed and his fruit trees at San Felipe.<sup>51</sup> Fruit trees produced abundant crops.

<sup>46</sup>*Texas Gazette*, May 22, 1830, "From the American Quarterly Review, XIII, March, 1830—G. F. Hopkins and Son: 1829."

<sup>47</sup>Austin's "Statistics of Texas," in Johnson-Barker, *Texas and Texans*, I, 175.

<sup>48</sup>Holley, *Texas* (1836), 61-62.

<sup>49</sup>*State Gazette*, September 8, 1849.

<sup>50</sup>Holley, *Texas* (1836), 63-64.

<sup>51</sup>*Texas Gazette*, May 29, 1830.

Stock raising was commonly considered to bring the largest returns with the least expenditure of time and effort. Austin did not attempt to estimate the number of cattle in his report of 1833. An editorial in a contemporary newspaper summed up the whole matter in this comparison:

Corn, sweet potatoes, butter, honey, and every article of subsistence are in demand at this place and bring a good price. Corn is worth \$1.50 per bushel, and butter 25 cents per lb. The farmer or planter without the resources for acquiring a strong force (say 50 hands) to engage in sugar making may turn beneficially his attention to the planting of cotton with from 5 to 20 hands; and we know several who successfully undertake this branch of agriculture with no other aid than the white individuals of their own family; if, however, he prefer a more easy mode of living, he may raise horses, mules, horned cattle, or hogs.<sup>52</sup>

Mrs. Holley at the same time discussed stock raising as follows,

The extensive natural pastures found in the prairies furnish peculiar facilities for rearing horses, black cattle, hogs, sheep and goats. They require no attention but to be branded and prevented from straying too far from home and becoming wild. Large quantities of mules are raised annually, many of which are carried to the United States; and it proves a very lucrative business, inasmuch as the labor and expense in rearing them are trifling and the price they command good. . . . In many parts of Texas, hogs may be raised in large numbers on the native mast. Acorns, pecans, hickory-nuts &c. with a variety of nutritious grasses and many kinds of roots, afford them ample sustenance during the year.<sup>53</sup>

Beef, hides, milk, butter, pork, lard, poultry, and lumber were some of the products of Texas besides the products of the soil. An article in the *Telegraph* says in 1835 that many of the settlers counted their herds by the hundred. And that great numbers of cattle were annually purchased and driven to New Orleans by drovers who visited the country for that purpose.<sup>54</sup>

On the whole the people seem to have lived on what they and their slaves produced. Land was so cheap and fertile that they made no effort to conserve the soil, but planted the same crops on the same land year after year.

<sup>52</sup>*Telegraph and Texas Register*, Columbia, September 13, 1836.

<sup>53</sup>Holley, *Texas* (1836), 66-67.

<sup>54</sup>*Telegraph and Texas Register*, October 31, 1835.

## III

LIFE ON THE PLANTATION<sup>55</sup>

The Peach Point Plantation was opened in December, 1832, west of the Brazos river, ten miles below Brazoria. The conditions the first year were unhappy. Cholera and malaria scourged the settlements in 1833, and a letter from Perry to Austin describes their effects:

Our family has not been entirely clear of sickness since June and part of the time scarcely enough well of either servants or whites to wait on the sick and at the worst of our sickness there was not a Physician could be had or a neighbour to call to see us

With regard to our crops and improvements we have done verry little since the middle of June as the Blacks were all sick as well as ourselves—we made a good crop of corn and pumpkins about 8 or 900 bushels of corn and plenty of pumpkins. We planted 13 acres of cotton the last week in June which bid fair to do pretty well but the early frost has injured it much as it had not commenced opening we do not expect much of a crop Cotton is now a fine price in N. O. from 16 to 18 cts. There is fine crops in this neighborhood and I am told all over the colony where the overflow did not injure it.<sup>56</sup>

Since the Day Book did not begin until 1837, and the first crop recorded in the Record Book is that of 1838, there is an interval of four years to be bridged over. This gap can only be spanned by Perry's correspondence. His expectations of good crops for 1834 as forecast in a letter to Austin did not come true.<sup>57</sup> In January, 1835, he reported that the cotton crop had been very small. This was partly due to small acreage, incident to opening the plantation, and in part was due to ravages of cotton worms, which destroyed about one-third of the crop. Such cotton as he harvested Perry shipped to New Orleans and sold for sixteen cents a pound. To his factors he wrote, "The cotton crop in this country was verry fine with the exception of some

<sup>55</sup>Based upon Record Book from 1838 to 1851 and a Plantation Day Book, 1837-1863. These volumes were given to the University of Texas by Mrs. James F. Perry, Second, and her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Stephen S. Perry of Freeport. They still own the Peach Point Plantation.

<sup>56</sup>Perry to Austin, October 26, 1833. Austin Papers.

<sup>57</sup>Perry to Austin, May 13, 1834.

5 or 6 plantations in my neighborhood which was destroyed by the worms."<sup>58</sup>

It will be recalled that Perry had settled at Chocolate Bayou before moving to Peach Point. Evidently there was some question as to the advisability of closing out the establishment there, for Austin wrote Perry, "I am greatly in favor of keeping up the Chocolate bayou stock farm, and intend to spend some of my time there—the place is of no value except for stock, but is good for that purpose."<sup>59</sup> That he was guided by Austin's wishes and retained the Chocolate Bayou ranch is indicated by occasional entries in the Day Book.

A letter from Perry to Austin in May, 1835, indicates the progress made in the plantation. He wrote,

I have made arrangements to settle our Dickenson and clear Creek lands and within the summer have the others settle[d] we have about 65 or 70 acres in cotton this year but the season since the 1st Mar has been so dry that prospects for crops are bad so far.<sup>60</sup>

In November of the same year Moses Austin Bryan, Perry's step-son, wrote, "am rejoiced to hear that you are all in good health and getting along so well in the way of picking out cotton etc."<sup>61</sup>

The next year the country was in turmoil and confusion incident to the revolution. Early in the year Perry was advised to take his family to a place of safety because of possible uprising of negroes and dangers from Indians.<sup>62</sup> Three days after this letter was written, Perry wrote that he was at Lynch's Ferry and that he had not gotten the "waggon across the San Jacinto." At the time he was undecided whether to take his negroes any further or not.<sup>63</sup> This move was part of the so-called "Runaway Scrape." Perry decided to leave his family on San Jacinto Bay. Together with several of his negro men, he joined James Morgan

<sup>58</sup>Perry to Messrs. Lastraps and Desmare, January 15, 1835. Austin Papers.

<sup>59</sup>Austin to Perry, November 6, 1834. Austin Papers.

<sup>60</sup>Perry to Austin, May 5, 1835. Austin Papers.

<sup>61</sup>Bryan to Perry, November 18, 1835. Austin Papers.

<sup>62</sup>Henry Austin to Perry, April 5, 1836. Austin Papers.

<sup>63</sup>Perry to Austin, April 8, 1836. Austin Papers.



on Galveston Bay, where he assisted in the building of fortifications to keep communications open to New Orleans.<sup>64</sup> As a consequence of this absence from home during the planting season, the crops for 1836 were short and hardly adequate for food and seed for the next year. Perry contracted with the Schooner *Colonel Fannin* to carry his crop of twenty-two bales to Messrs. John A. Merle & Co. of New Orleans. In the letter notifying this company of shipment he inquired whether he could obtain a loan of two or three thousand dollars for April or May, 1837, if the crop prospects were good at that time.<sup>65</sup> The twenty-two bales did not go by the *Colonel Fannin* as is seen from the following letter.

Enclosed you will also receive a Bill of Lading pr Schooner *Julias Ceiser* for twenty two Bales of Cotton, the whole amount of my crop, which I hope you will receive in good order and get a good price for it as I need all I can get and more too.<sup>66</sup>

There is no record of the 1837 crop. Conditions could not have been prosperous, for Perry was borrowing money as is seen from the following letter from his factor.

Money is very scare here [New Orleans]. If we can possibly advance the \$500.—you speak of we will enclose it to Mrs. Perry.

New cotton begins to come in July and ranges from 10 to 12c in price we fear Cotton will not go above 10c this season.<sup>67</sup>

Peach Point in its beginning was primarily a cotton plantation, with corn and other products to supply the plantation needs. It is not until the fifties that sugar cane becomes the leading crop. Beginning with 1838 there is a fairly comprehensive record of the cotton crop through 1849, giving the records of the pickers by name, the total weight of the crop, the number of bales, the price of the crop, a partial account of the outlay for the crop, and observations on the weather. While a few references were made to the planting of the corn, it was not until 1846 and 1847 that a full record was given of the yield. The

<sup>64</sup>*Texas Planter*, November 16, 1853.

<sup>65</sup>Perry to John A. Merle & Co., New Orleans, January 29, 1837. Austin Papers.

<sup>66</sup>Perry to John A. Merle & Co., February 6, 1837. Austin Papers.

<sup>67</sup>James Reed & Co. to Perry, October 5, 1837. Austin Papers.

records for this crop were never as complete as were those for cotton. The records for cane and its products began in 1848. The daily routine of the plantation is most fully illustrated in the farm journal for 1848 kept from day to day by Stephen S. Perry, the eldest son of James F. Perry.<sup>67a</sup> This journal began on January 16. The last entry was for the twenty-fourth of November; but there are no entries for July and September, only two for August, and one entry for October. This journal recorded labor routine, delinquencies of the slaves, and weather conditions, presenting in brief a picture of labor conditions on the plantation.

When the journal began, the ginning of the 1847 crop was still going on; and, indeed, the last bale was not ginned until March 17, 1848, by which time some of the early cotton for 1848 was coming up, though part of the 1848 crop was not yet planted. The preparation of the ground began on February 8, with the pulling of the cotton stalks and on March 9 they were still breaking up cotton stalks. In the meantime the ploughs were throwing up cotton ridges so that the cotton planting started on March 1. The year before the planting had started eleven days later. The cotton planted early was coming up before all of the cotton land was prepared for the seed. By March 31 the first ploughing of the cotton had begun and was finished by April 12; on May 1 the second ploughing started, the hoes were going at the same time as the second ploughing. On the first of May the cotton in the prairie field was replanted because a third of it was missing. Mr. Perry noted by the middle of June that the crop was fine, being nearly as high as his head. All the middles had been ploughed out by June 20, and the hoeing was finished within a week, thus "laying by the cotton." The negroes were free for other crops and work until cotton picking began on July 31. The total crop of 154,188 pounds in the seed had been picked by October 11.

Besides attending to the cultivation of the other crops of corn, potatoes, and cane, the hands were occupied in splitting rails, getting board timber and basket timber, tearing down and rebuilding fences, making and cleaning out ditches, shelling corn,

<sup>67a</sup>See Appendix II, below.

killing hogs, minding the birds from the corn, hauling wood, working on the roads, building Ben's chimney, killing a beef, and attending to brood sows and their litters. No work was done on Sunday.

Turning to the annual statistics, the 1838 cotton crop was gathered between the fourth of September and some time in December—"the date knot nown precisely"—by fifteen pickers, among whom were Ben, Peter, Bill, Doctor, Sam, Dick, John, Beck, Mary, Chaney, George, and Ned. The fifteenth hand picked one day. The gang picked 667 pounds a day near the beginning of the season and 3214 pounds as the season advanced. The 1838 crop for the entire plantation was 127 bales of which number Dick, Sam, and Bill owned one and one-half bales.

The next year there were twenty pickers with Betcey, Caroline, Margaret, Bob, Clenen, Allin, Frank, Tom, Sam, and Simon in the crew in addition to those of the previous year. The crop lacked 21 bales of being as large as that of 1838, being 106 bales. The average weight of the bales was 545 pounds, and netted 6½c per pound. This crop had been hauled to the river by the sixteenth of January.

The plantation was apparently divided into three fields for cotton. These are designated in the record for 1840 as "Prairie field," "Field by the Gin," and "Field by the House." The crop of 106 bales was gathered by twenty-five pickers. Bill and Peter were expert pickers, Bill picking 325 pounds on August 26 and Peter 334 pounds on the same day. The average of the other twenty-two pickers for this day was 196 pounds. The yield for this year was classified as 40 "first rate" bales, 59 "good" bales, and 4 "not so good." All of the crop was in by October 26. The shortness of the season may be explained by a note under date of September 1 that the worms had destroyed the cotton.

Each year the number of bales decreased, only 89 being ginned in 1841. In this year the pickers numbered 19; however, George picked only two days. Peter and Bill kept the lead, with Caroline and Bob close followers. Turner, Purnell, Simon, and Allin were the poorest pickers, gathering in one week 780, 575, 510, and 580 pounds respectively. This was the same week that Peter had 1470 pounds to his credit. This year's crop bore out Perry's

statement that "the prospects for crops are rather bad," and that the blacks had been sick.<sup>68</sup>

The picking in 1842 must have been very scattering, because it took nineteen negroes from July 1 to October 20 to pick 50 bales. The largest amount gathered in one day by any picker was 293 pounds.

By May 26, the 1843 crop was blooming and on August 15 picking had begun. Peter picked a total of 8131 pounds for the season; Caroline 7632; Bill 6725; Bob 6992; Ben 5975; Betcey 6534; Beckey 5436; Chaney 5241; Dock 5443; George 5086; John 5764; Ned 5815; Turner 2783; Purnell 4569; Allin 3786; Mary 809; Westley 1899; Sam 456; Jim 3468; L. Ben 3398; thus making a grand total of 101,403 pounds of seed cotton. The 61 bales delivered at Aycock's warehouse weighed 29,328 pounds. A letter from Guy M. Bryan to his friend Rutherford B. Hayes explains the short crop of this and the previous years,

. . . we have had for the last two months the most unprecedented rains. The whole country has been under water. The Brazos River has again overflowed its banks. The crops which were most promising have been cut off one fourth. My father who had a most promising crop will not make more than 60 bales of cotton. Our lands which cost three thousand dollars annual tax, bring us in scarce a farthing. We are thus dependent upon our cotton crop for our active means, & that having failed for this year, I fear we will be unable to pay expenses. I however hope to obtain of a large cotton planter, who has made a tolerable crop, & owes us 15 or 16000\$ & is an *honest man* a sufficient sum to answer my purposes & enable me to go to the U S. . . . The crops of the country have nearly failed for three years in succession.<sup>69</sup>

Despite worms in the gin house field by September 4, and their spread to the other cotton fields, the 1844 crop amounted to 118 bales, averaging 537 pounds each, or a total of 63,326 pounds of lint cotton. Of this crop 40 bales made up the better cotton, while there were three ordinary bales, and three stained ones. In addition to the workers of 1843, Silvy, Dave, Elish, Charlot, Big George, Jill, Lowey, and L. John picked part of the time, numbering 28 hands in all—Turner was not on the roll. Peter, Bill,

<sup>68</sup>Perry to Somervell, June 18, 1841. Austin Papers.

<sup>69</sup>Bryan to Hayes, December 21, 1843. THE QUARTERLY, XXV, 108.

Betsey, Caroline, and George were leading the field in the amount picked. This crop had to be replanted in May, while the first cotton planted was blooming on the twenty-second of May. The net proceeds were  $4\frac{1}{2}$  cents a pound.

The banner year of the plantation was 1845 when the yield was 130 bales. The twenty-two hands gathered 77,233 pounds of seed cotton from the Prairie field, of which 53,699 pounds was classed as "fine" cotton; and 90,412 pounds in the Timber field. The hands were irregular in their picking—Allin, Bob, Betcey, and Caroline lost from the field 4 days each; Charlot and Mary, 2 days each; Purnell, 3 days; Bill and John Jack, 5 days; Ben, 39; Beckey and Westley, 14; Clenen, 34; Chaney, 11; John, 12; George and Silvey, 7 each; Lowey, 9; Ned, 33; and Robert, 33 days. Sam picked three days.

The cotton crop of 1846 was very short. There were 10 bales, two of which were Silk cotton. The lint total of these 10 bales amounted to 4660 pounds. How poor the picking was may be judged by the fact that those hands who could pick around 400 pounds per day picked from 51 to 116 pounds per day.

In 1847 the cotton planting started on March 11, and the hands went into the field on August 10 to begin gathering the white staple. On August 20 the cotton worm made its first appearance. Mary Ann, Simon, Neece, Jerry, a negro belonging to Mrs. Jack, Gustus, Morris, Lucy, Dick, yellow Simon, and Tom were new hands on the record book. By November 8, the twenty-seven hands had picked 193,000 pounds. By November 8, Hill, the overseer had baled 8 bales, and the last of the 105 was not ginned until March 17, 1848. The 105 bales came to 55,262 pounds.

The planting of the 1848 cotton was described above. Twenty-three hands, starting on August 1, had gathered the crop by October 20, although they did not finish baling until February 8, 1849. The 82 bales weighed 42,108 pounds. There were 3057 pounds of seed cotton classified as "fine."

The following year, 19 hands, Allin, Bill, Ben, Bob, Betcey, Becky, Clenen, Caroline, Chaney, George, John, Ned, Mary, Peter, Robert, Sam, Silvey, Westley, Simon began picking on August 9 and by October 8 were picking the last of the thin cotton, when none of the hands picked over 100 pounds per day. The 39 bales

of the 1849 crop, weighing 18,221 pounds, averaged 467 pounds each. There was no record of the 1850 crop in either of the books.

The first picking of the 1851 crop yielded 20 bales of good quality, weighing 10,339 pounds. The nine bales of the second picking came to 4457. The last picking brought the total to 38 bales. This is the last record of a cotton crop on the plantation in either the Record Book or the Day Book.

Corn was the staple food of the South; indeed, in one form or another it was the main dependence in Texas. The records show that very little flour was bought. As early as 1833, Perry wrote that they had raised "8 or 900 bushels of corn and plenty of pumpkins."<sup>70</sup>

The journal for Perry's plantation is most satisfactory for 1848, and that year is, therefore, taken to illustrate the routine of corn cultivation. Rotation of crops was practiced to some extent at Peach Point, unlike many of the plantations, as is evidenced by this entry of April 18, "Commenced ploughing corn hilling it up and ploughing out the middles. Corn looks well indeed wants rain very much. good stand in all of it except the cotton ground replant not all come up." The first step in the planting of the corn was the clearing of the ground. The corn planting began on February 17, and was finished on the morning of February 25. The corn came up slowly that year, necessitating the minding of the birds from February 26, when the corn began coming up, through March 10, at which time all the corn was not yet up. The ploughs started in the corn on March 23 and the hoes began the next day and continued for a week. Stephen Perry under March 24 made this note, "we did not harrow our corn this year, I do not think we did right we smothered down the ridges with the hoes." By April 7 both corn and cotton needed rain; the corn, however, as was natural, was suffering most. On April 18 they commenced ploughing the corn a second time, to hill it up, and plough out the middles. The stand of corn in 1848 was good except in the bottom field which had been replanted. Seven ploughs were running in the corn with the hoes on April 19. The third ploughing started on May 12 and was finished on the 18, but the hoeing continued. A corn crop furnished plenty of

<sup>70</sup>Perry to Austin, October 26, 1833. Austin Papers.

labor after it was laid by, for it had to be gathered and there was the shucking and shelling as occupations for rainy days. It was not unusual in Texas to plant two crops of corn a year, but there is nothing to indicate that this was done on the Perry plantation. They did plant potatoes in the corn.

As a rule, there was more corn raised on the plantation than was consumed there. In 1838 the Record Book showed that 15 bushels of corn and 11 bushels of corn in the shuck were sold; in 1839 a surplus of 31 bushels of corn, 54 bushels unshucked corn, and 23 bushels of corn meal were sold; in 1841, out of 73 loads, 10 bushels of corn, 9 of meal, and \$1.25 worth of "hom-money" were sold; in 1842, 1 bushel of seed corn and 30 bushels of meal; in 1843, 10 bushels of corn and 83 bushels of meal. In 1844, they sold 150 bushels of corn, contracting to grind 20 of it into meal, 57 barrels of unshucked corn, 5 bales of fodder, and 80 bushels of meal. The following year the plantation disposed of 228 bushels of corn, 20 bushels in the shuck and 30 bushels of meal. The crop of 1846 amounted to 3800 bushels and was gathered in September. Of this amount, 123 bushels and 116 sacks of corn, 11 barrels of corn in the shuck, and 17 bushels of meal were sold. In 1847 the crop, which was planted between March 2 and 6, yielded 92 loads, estimated at 2300 bushels. They record as sold, 24 bales of fodder, 110 bushels and 114 sacks of corn, 42 barrels of corn in the shuck, and 8 bushels of meal. Of the 1848 yield of 144 loads (about 3600 bushels), 60 bushels were sold. From the crop of 1850, the memorandum shows as sold 583 bales of fodder and 58 barrels of corn. From this time until 1863, there are no records of any sales except 176 bushels in 1858. In 1863, the overseer, Mr. Ayers, sold 1162 bushels of corn and 23,973 pounds of fodder to the government, and 25 bushels of meal to various civilians. The price varied from seventy-five cents to a dollar per bushel. Apparently the plantation never had to buy corn or meal, but always had sufficient to supply their needs. The custom was to charge toll in kind for grinding corn at the mill. All this corn may not have been raised on the Perry land. Part of it may have come from the mill, no doubt some of the meal did.

The crop which was apparently taking the place of cotton in the fifties was sugar cane. Phillips, quoting from P. A. Cham-

ponier's *Statement of the Sugar Crop*, says, "Outside of Louisiana the industry took no grip except on the Brazos River in Texas, where in 1858 thirty-seven plantations produced about six thousand hogsheads."<sup>71</sup> The Day Book showed that Mr. Perry was buying over two barrels of sugar a year after 1843, and in 1847 he bought 1125 pounds. He sold Andrew Churchhill a barrel (of 234 pounds) of sugar in 1847. This large purchase in 1847 may have been due to his buying in large quantities to get it cheaper for himself and neighbors. In 1846 he paid Major James P. Caldwell, from whom he usually bought his sugar supply, \$12 for a barrel of molasses. It is uncertain when Perry commenced raising cane. In the journal for 1848 under date of April 15, Stephen entered this statement, "Ploughing cane and hoing cotton. First time the cane has been ploughed this year." There is nothing to indicate that this was the first cane crop on the plantation. A heavy frost on the fourth of November, the day on which the cutting had begun, killed the cane. By November 10, the cane was cut. These are the only facts known about the crop except that there is no record of their having bought any sugar in that year or in 1849. In November, 1849, the purchase of 180 yards by 39 yards of sugar cane for seed was made from James P. Caldwell. This was 1 43/100 acres at \$40.00 and amounted to \$57.20. James Hext, overseer for Perry, and a man by the name of Dillon measured the cane.

The sugar mill was not installed on the plantation until 1850. In May of that year the sugar house was built, and Close & Adams installed the mill and engine in October. The sugar making began on December 12, 1850. A few days before this a severe freeze had spoiled "the most of the seed cane which was put up in malay" [matlay].<sup>72</sup> The breaking of the jack chain delayed the sugar making for a day and a half. On January 1 the cane had been rolled, but it became too sour to work up. The 1850 crop produced 165 barrels of molasses, of which four barrels were re-

<sup>71</sup>Phillips, U. B., *American Negro Slavery*, 168.

<sup>72</sup>Seed cane was stored in "matlay" for the winter. Phillips (*American Negro Slavery*, 244) describes the process as the laying of the stalks in their leaves with the tops turned to the south to keep out the north wind, with the leaves of each layer covering the butts of that below, and with dirt over the last butts in the mat. Perry bought by the yard as the cane lay on the ground.



served for home use, two for W. J. Bryan, and one for M. A. Bryan. In June, 45 barrels of sugar were shipped in the *General Hamer* to T. Crosby. William N. Payne charged \$354.80 for 100 molasses barrels of mixed sizes, 68 large size barrels, 2 meat barrels, 2 molasses barrels, 8 sugar buckets, and 52 hogsheads, while Horace Chadwick (apparently the same name sometimes spelled Shattuck), charged \$63 for 42 molasses barrels to pack sugar in. Out of the crop of 1851, 202 barrels of molasses and 60 hogsheads of sugar were shipped; 2 barrels of sugar being sent to Rosanah P. Brown, Delaware, Ohio. The expenses for the sugar crop of 1851 included: \$25 for work done on the furnace of the sugar house; \$192 to Jesse Munson for making 96 hogsheads of sugar; \$50 to W. N. Payne for making 50 "hogsheads"; and \$433.92 to Horace Chadwick for making 321 barrels and 5 hogsheads; besides the hire for extra slaves.

There were several interruptions and hindrances to the sugar making of 1852. At first the pump refused to work; then the furnace mouth gave way and there was a delay until a mason could come to rebuild it. On the 13th of November they were interrupted by the burning of the corn house and stables with over 3000 bushels of corn and most of the ploughs, harrows, and carts. They saved about 150 bushels of corn. The uncut cane was injured by hard frost and ice in the early part of January. They had begun cutting and hauling the cane on October 23, and on January 10 finished boiling the last of the crop. The extra expense for hired help, including \$93.33 to Cash for overseeing, was \$646.60. The warehouse bill from Crosby showed that 450 barrels of molasses and 71 hogsheads of sugar from this crop had been stored; there were then, on March 23, 75 barrels of molasses and one barrel of sugar. On August 15 there was an entry that 72 barrels had been shipped to W. Hendly & Co. of Galveston in two shipments. Shattuck's bill for making and repairing barrels for the 1852 and 1853 crops was \$651.23. Munson charged \$420 for boiling the sugar and serving as engineer for the 1852 crop. The records for 1852 are meager.

The 1854 sugar crop was finished by December 27, and a good crop was made. The net proceeds on 53 barrels after paying storage, expense to Galveston, and expenses after leaving Galveston, which included freight, wharfage, auction charges, cooper-

age, interest, commission, and guaranteeing, were \$5364.49. After deducting \$2579.63 for expenses, the net proceeds of the 1855 crop were \$6781.13. The 180 barrels and 140 hogsheads were marketed in Baltimore, Galveston, and New York. The price for sugar from 1851 on varied from five cents to six cents per pound. During the Civil War it was higher. In 1863, Mr. Ayers, in Stephen S. Perry's absence, sold \$415 worth of sugar at fifty cents a pound.

Potatoes, like corn, were a staple food on the plantation. In 1837 the current expenses were charged with \$5.50 for potatoes. This may have been for seed as this is the year they were so abundant. This is the last record of potatoes purchased until 1847, when 3 barrels were bought. On the contrary, several barrels were sold every season. In 1845 some 200 bushels of sweet potatoes and 18 bushels of Irish potatoes were sold. After 1853 there are no records of sales except five bushels in 1857.

Tobacco was a minor product of the plantation. In 1846 Perry sent R. and D. G. Mills, of Brazoria, 2526 pounds at six cents per pound with the understanding that they should give him half of the profits above that amount. This is the only record of transactions in tobacco.

The record contains various entries of miscellaneous products sold. These included eggs, sometimes by the keg, chickens, muscova ducks, turkeys, geese, butter, pecans, tallow, hominy, and hard soap. The sales were not in large quantities nor were they made regularly.

There is no record of how many hogs they had or how they raised them, except in the 1848 farm journal. Between January 27 and the first of February, 47 hogs were killed. This was probably only a small part of the number killed that winter, for Texas farmers believed that old saw that meat killed before Christmas kept better, and they would hardly have gone that late in the season without fresh meat. On January 31, the entry reads, "Tearing down and rebuilding fences. Hunting sowes and pigs, put nine sowes with about forty young pigs in the Prairy field." From 1839 to 1849 there was a gradual increase in the amounts of pork and lard sold, after which time the sales fell off abruptly. In 1848 they sold 12 hogs, 1744 pounds of bacon at eight cents, and 334 pounds of lard at nine cents per pound.

In 1843 and the two following years the sales of pickled pork averaged about 300 pounds at eight cents per pound.

The Chocolate Bayou stock farm was kept as Austin desired, but there were few entries made in regard to it save two pages under "Pleasant Bayou Ranch," giving the accounts from 1856 through 1859. There was exchange of labor to some extent between Peach Point and Pleasant Bayou, as is seen in the journal of Stephen Perry. This is shown in the entry of April 17, "Need left this morning for Chocolate Bayou (Sam coming in his place)"; on the 19th this additional statement was entered, "Robert left for Choclet on the 17 of April with Need carried two mules with him."

From the beginning, this place had been considered ranching land. In 1834 Austin instructed Perry to "collect all the stock you can in claims due me and put them on your farm at Chocolate Bayou, in your own brand."<sup>73</sup> From Peach Point they shipped out on an average of 13 hides a year at 7 and 8 cents. In one year they received \$27 for 15 hides. Very few beeves were sold from the plantation. In 1839 they received \$240 for cows; in 1840, \$182; in 1845, \$100 and a note for three cows at \$10 each; in 1846, \$40. There were no records of the sale of hides from Chocolate. They bought corn in small quantities occasionally. In 1847 and again in 1848, about 2000 pounds of corn was shipped Aycock for the use of Judge Low in payment of loans of corn from him.

Edward Austin took charge of the Pleasant Bayou stock in 1846 at the salary of \$200 per annum with the provision that he make his wages out of the stock. N. S. (?) Davis had charge from 1856 until as late as February 1859. He sold 233 beeves and five stags for \$5532. The expense account totaled \$1307.98, including articles purchased for the ranch and \$200 for Davis's services. In 1842, Edmund Andrews was charged with \$300 worth of timber from Chocolate and Hopkins is charged with \$500 for "Timber taken away and destroyed on my land on Chocolate Bayou." It can not be determined from these inadequate accounts whether the ranch was a financial success or not.

In the sketch of Perry's life in the *Planter*, 1853, he is de-

<sup>73</sup>Austin to Perry, January 14, 1834. Austin Papers.

scribed as "One of the best planters and masters in the State."<sup>74</sup> When he came to Texas in 1831, Perry brought his slaves with him, but their number and qualities are unknown. There is no complete list of Perry's slaves. The daily record of the cotton picking which was kept by name is the nearest to a list of the slaves. There are no records of purchase or sale of negroes except in two cases. In 1832, Austin wrote Perry as follows:

I am sending you Simon & wish you to keep him close at work untill I return. He has been idle for so long that he will require a tight rein—he is in the habit of gambling—but he is a useful hand on a farm if he is kept close to his business.<sup>75</sup>

This would seem to indicate that Austin already had a negro by the name of Simon, while in 1836 he wrote to his brother-in-law:

McKinstry has a very likely negro 27 years of age, healthy and a good field hand—he has ran away owing to a terrible whipping Mc. gave him the other day, but I believe has no very bad habits—he asks twelve hundred dollars cash—I have an idea of buying him—what do you think of the price—if I take him will send him to you untill I need him.<sup>76</sup>

Whether Perry advised it or not, Austin did pay \$1200 for another slave by the name of Simon, who is described as of a "dark complexion, aged about 27 years and in good health."<sup>77</sup> This Simon is probably the one by that name on the records. In April, 1842, William Joel Bryan is debited on the Record Book with \$1000 paid to Hopkins for "negress Ann and child" and with \$3000 paid to Dr. Smith for "negress Tamar, negroes Donor & George." On the same day, Joel is again debited with \$1000 to Emily M. Perry for boy Frank. A note to the side of the page reads: "Entered in Mrs. E. M. Perry's Book." In 1834 John R. Jones, who was selling out to go into the mercantile business, offered Perry his Missouri negroes in payment of a debt. In 1841 and again in 1848, Hamilton White offered to settle a

<sup>74</sup>Clipping from the *Texas Planter*, 1853. Austin Papers.

<sup>75</sup>Austin to Perry, March 3, 1832. Austin Papers.

<sup>76</sup>Austin to Perry, November 11, 1836. Austin Papers.

<sup>77</sup>Receipt from George B. McKinstry to Austin, Columbia, November 25, 1836. Austin Papers.

debt for land with negroes.<sup>78</sup> Before this in 1837, George Hammeken had written Perry from New Orleans of an opportunity to buy one Gouverneur's slaves.<sup>79</sup> Whether or not Perry closed with any of these proposals is not apparent. The list of field hands in the record is supposedly complete, but there is nothing to indicate the number of domestic slaves.

There is scarcely anything in the records to indicate how the negroes lived. No punishments for the negroes are recorded. They seem to have been on the whole fairly healthy. The record for 1841 is probably a representative year. In this year, Ben was out of the field on account of a snake bite. George was sick all of the cotton picking season of 1841. John and Becky were out a few days. Mary was away from the field 26 days, 17 of these following the birth of a son on October 11. This is the only record of the birth of a child to any of the slaves on the plantation; in fact, there are no records of there being any children unless this is implied in the labor of driving the birds away from the young corn. This sort of work would probably be done by children or infirm negroes. In 1848 Allin was sick practically all the Spring; Westley, for part of May; and Mary, during the fall. Stephen Perry, in his synopsis of the months of January, February and March, said, "The atmosphere has become so impure, which has produced sickness among the negroes, they complain principally of pains in the breast and sides, sores, and rumatizms &c &c." As far as the farm journal carried the record in 1848, the negroes lost from the field 115 days from sickness. The only record of any of Perry's slaves running off was in an entry of May 30, 1848. Tom ran away and was gone until June 7. No reason was assigned for his running away. Nothing is shown as to the negroes' social life. There is an entry in November, 1839, that they had a half day's picking and that Sam was married that day.

Perry hired out his own slaves, and in turn, employed the slaves of others as need arose. He frequently had to hire additional labor in the sugar making of the fifties. Such emergencies were met by mutual accommodation of neighbors, and not by

<sup>78</sup>White to Perry, September 16, 1841, and January 20, 1848. Austin Papers.

<sup>79</sup>Hammeken to Perry, July 26, 1837. Austin Papers.

hiring from a slave gang. In 1834 Edmund Andrews wrote asking, "have you none among those of Westall's [slaves] that you will hire me for a cook."<sup>80</sup> John P. Borden in 1837 wrote to hire either Clara or Milly as a cook.<sup>81</sup> In 1844 W. J. Bryan hired Frank, George, Clenen, Bob, Mary, and Silvy to assist with his cotton. The next year he hired Sam, Allin, Purnell, Westley, Ben, John, Ned, and Bill a total of sixty-two days to gin and bale his cotton. In June, 1855, Perry let Mr. Shattuck have a negro woman at \$15 per month. The records indicate that Perry hired outside help more often than he let his slaves out. In 1843 he hired Ben and Jim at \$10 per month from Dr. Leonard. From 1844 to 1850 he hired Jerry, Tom and George from Mrs. Laura H. Jack. Beginning with 1850 his expense account for hired slave labor was high during the season of sugar making, which required a large force to work day and night. He paid from \$20 a month to \$1.00 per day in the sugar season when the work was hard. He had hired nine slaves in 1851 from Mrs. Bell, of Bernardo, and from Edmund Arrington. This number was increased to eleven in 1852.

If the slaves worked on Sunday, which they frequently had to do in sugar making, they received the \$1.00 themselves. The expense account for the sugar crop of 1852 included \$45 "for home hands." This may have been for their Sunday labor. In 1853 at least fifteen negroes were hired from Major Caldwell, Major Lewis, W. & J. Hopkins, Derant, and Guy M. Bryan; and ten for 1853. Perry had considerable trouble on account of hired negroes running away for a few days at a time—probably to see their families. Guy's negroes, Henry, Sam, Simon, Bill, Nathan, and little John, ran away at various times during 1852 for a day or so at a time. Perry boarded the hired negroes but he evidently charged their clothing to their masters. In 1853 he charged Major Lewis with six pairs of shoes and one blanket. In 1854 Estes was charged with one pair of shoes, which was deducted from Estes' bill of \$60. In 1855 Captain Black was charged with \$15 for ten pairs of shoes for his negroes. In 1853

<sup>80</sup>Andrews to Perry, October 26, 1834. Austin Papers.

<sup>81</sup>Borden to Austin, August 13, 1837. Austin Papers.

Perry paid for negro hire \$638.80. Of this amount, \$28.50 was for Sunday work and \$45 for the home hands. The one item of Lewis's hire for 1854 was \$800.

There was some work which the slaves and overseers could not do, so white labor was called in. Most of the work done by white labor was shopwork, stocking ploughs, carpentering, installing the sugar mill, making barrels, papering the pantry, and engineering work on the sugar house and furnace. This would point to the inference that the negroes on the plantation were field hands unskilled in any trade. Apparently they worked in gangs, for Bill had charge of a gang in 1848.

Over the negroes there passed a constant stream of overseers, beginning with William Joel Bryan, who was credited with \$800 for service in "1837 & 1836" and 1838 & 1839. The salaries for the overseers varied from \$20 a month to \$650 a year. It is uncertain how long Joseph M. Trimble served in 1838 after he was employed on January 2. There were three overseers in 1839: one Ramsey, K. K. Koontz, and David H. Love. Ramsey and Love were both discharged. M. M. Aycock served throughout the year of 1840. In 1841 J. J. Harwell was employed for overseer, but it was not indicated how long he remained in Perry's employment. Denman contracted to serve from December 18, 1841, to January, 1843. He became ill and left after a week's service. Denman had a horse and the agreement was that if the horse were kept on the plantation it was to be used for its keep. On January 6, 1842, John Kellen began to serve as overseer. The two following overseers served for two years each: John Handcock for 1843 and 1844, and Chapman White, whose family lived in Mississippi, for 1845 and 1846. William L. Hill agreed on March 22 to serve as overseer for \$25 per month. provided Perry was satisfied. He and Perry made a settlement on November 27 of that year. Joseph Hext, who was overseer throughout 1849 and 1850, came for \$20 a month with a contract to receive \$25 if 110 bales were made and sold at seven cents. They made 39 bales of cotton in 1849. Jesse Munson, who was skilled in sugar making, and who had made up the 1851 sugar crop, was overseer from January 1 to October 19 when he began to make up the sugar crop of 1852. H. J. B. Cash took Munson's place

as overseer on October 19, 1852, and with the exception of short intervals he continued in Perry's employ until January 1, 1855. A man who is called at various times Seiers, Sayer, and Seayer began overseeing on December 13, 1856, at the rate of \$600 a year. He served one year and began on another but it is not recorded whether he worked the full two years or not. Hull, the last one of whom there is an account, was to receive \$50 per month, and Perry agreed to furnish him beef, meal, molasses, and a servant to assist his wife and to cook and wash.

The negroes were allowed small patches of their own in which they raised cotton, corn, and vegetables. In the calculations made about 1852 of the size of the various fields, the measurements of the prairie field were fifty-six acres after four acres had been taken out for garden and lot; the timber field was 187 acres after a deduction of one acre for each of the nine "boys," Simon, Sam, Ned, Ben, Bill, Peter, John, Clenen and Bob. African Bill and Sam each received \$38.87 for their 1839 cotton crop; Bill and Peter were each credited with \$55.02 for their 1840 and 1841 crop; Ned, \$30.72 for his 1841 cotton; Simon \$41.34 for his crop. In December 25, 1845, Clenen was debited to Ben for balance of \$2.35 due him for rent of ground for 1845. The crops of Simon and Peter were short in 1846, being 73 pounds and 115 pounds respectively. On November 27, 1847, this entry was made, "Bill African By 1,110 lb. Seed Cotten Crop of this year suppose to be worth 1½c but to [be] paid at what my crop sells for—\$16.05." In 1854 the total crop for seven "boys" was 11,036 pounds. When one slave picked another slave's cotton, he was credited on the Day Book with the money for the picking. The negroes raised corn as well as cotton. Ben sent sixteen and Simon six barrels of corn to Brazoria in 1848. In 1850 Bill was credited with 585 pounds of fodder at one cent a pound, and sixteen barrels of corn at \$8.00. In 1855 Purnell is credited with 20½ bushels of corn. The negroes must have raised hogs, for Clenen sent fifty pounds of bacon worth \$10 to M. B. Williamson in 1847, and Ned sent sixty-one pounds to Canon.

There is no record of clothing and supplies being issued to the negroes. On the other hand, the negroes are charged with shoes, tobacco, and merchandise from Mills and Bennett, Stringfellow and Aharns, and other firms. This may have been to keep ac-



count of what was spent on each slave, but the shoes and other articles are only charged against those negroes who are shown to have had a patch of ground, except George who is charged with one pair of shoes in 1850. The "coars" shoes and "Russett Brogans" ranged in price from \$1.25 to Sam's \$3.50 boots in 1849. These merchandise orders may have come from the proceeds of their crop to supplement their regular clothing allowance. The merchandise included combs, flannel, \$5.00 dress patterns, sugar, padlocks, net and cambric for two or three mosquito bars, buckets, and straw hats. Between 1839 and 1851 there are recorded thirteen pairs of shoes against Bill, three pairs being for Betcy; Sam had a pair for each year from 1839 to 1842; Ben, Peter, Simon, and Ned had five pairs each for the four years, one pair of those bought for Peter was for Silvey; three of John African's twelve pairs were for Becky; Allin and Clenen had two pairs each between 1839 and 1842, and George had one pair. Sam is charged with twenty-three plugs of tobacco, Ben with seven, and Ned with fourteen plugs.

Although the plantation was located on the Brazos, the products had to be hauled to Aycock's in Brazoria, which was nine miles from the plantation, or to Crosby's Landing. There is no record of a landing at Peach Point. If there was no immediate market or no boat to transport the goods, they were stored in the warehouse at the shipping point. Both Aycock and Crosby often acted as agents to dispose of the farm products. Frequently one of the various schooners, *Alamo*, *Josephine*, *John G. McNeel*, *Hamer*, *Oscar*, *Washington*, *S. M. Williams*, or the *Rein Deer*, plying on the river was at the landing and received the goods at the end of the haul, and thus shipment was made directly to William H. Hendley & Co. of Galveston, who disposed of the shipment in New Orleans, Baltimore, or New York. Perry did some banking business with the firm of R. Mills & Co. of Brazoria, with its successor, R. & D. G. Mills, and with James Reed & Company of New Orleans. These firms sold the crops on different occasions, but William Hendley & Co. did most of this work. Perry settled Crosby's bill for storage and ferriage on March 23, 1853, for \$118.75. This bill went back far enough to include \$25.50 for storage of 408 barrels of molasses of the crop of 1850 and 1851 at 6¼c. Much of the supplies for the plantation came

from James Reed & Company, R. & D. G. Mills, and William Hendley & Company. Smaller items came from Mills and Bennett, Stringfellow & Aharns of Brazoria, Smith and Pilgrim, Blackwell and Schlecht, E. Purcell and Company, and Canfield and Slater of Galveston. It was not indicated where all of these firms were located.

The 106 bales of the 1839 cotton crop netted \$3744 after deducting \$297 for the cost of the bagging and rope for baling. This year and the years immediately following were hard in Texas, because of the panic in the United States and the declining value of Texas currency due to the unsound finances. The currency depreciated steadily until it was worth about one-third of its face value. The prices, according to the *Telegraph*, were unreasonably high; pork was eighty cents per pound; a beef, from \$70 to \$80; corn meal \$6 to \$8; coffee per pound, fifty to sixty cents; butter, from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per pound.<sup>82</sup> Mills & Bennett shipped the 1840 crop of 103 bales, and the net proceeds were \$4561.73, after deducting cost of bagging, rope, charges to and at San Luis, and the balance of the interest. This is about two cents per pound more than the year before. R. & D. G. Mills handled the 89 bales of the 1841 crop and returned a net price of \$4338.58. The sum of \$1306.14 was the net price of the 50 bales of the next year, while the 61 bales of 1843 yielded \$2700.78 after the usual expenses incident to baling were paid. Perry ginned J. T. Hawkins's 1843 crop also. He was to receive one-tenth of the net proceeds after R. & D. G. Mills had sold the crop plus \$1.00 per bale for packing. The extremely low price of three cents in 1844 brought the net proceeds of the 118 bales to \$3133.45, or \$174 as the net yield per slave for each of the eighteen field hands. The largest cotton crop of the whole period, 130 bales, brought in only \$4644.55. It is a big jump from 130 bales to the 10 bale crop of 1846. This brought \$46 per bale, and \$700 would cover the amount brought in by corn, meat, and lard as set down in the record. Thirty-six bales of the 105 bales of the 1847 crop brought \$1217.46. It was not recorded how much the 159 bales of the 1848, 1849, and 1851 crops amounted to. The sale of sugar cane products for 1852 through 1856 added

<sup>82</sup>*Telegraph and Texas Register*, October 2, 1839.

to that of 1863 both retail and wholesale as recorded was \$14,236.29, but this is not likely to be a complete record.

Perry wrote in 1833 that for the past several years farmers had raised cotton with great success, averaging "from 7 to 8 bales to the hand weighing from 540 to 560 each besides corn and everything ells for the support of their farms." But the 1838 crop was the only one with which Perry was ever able to equal this record. The crop that year averaged nine bales to each of the fourteen hands. The crop of 1845 averaged six bales to the hand, and the 1839 averaged five bales. The average for 1846 was one-half bale. The average per hand for the twelve years from 1838 through 1849 was  $4\frac{1}{8}$  bales.

For brief glimpses of the life and environment of the family who owned and made Peach Point their home, we are dependent on fragmentary sources. From the first Austin, who had visions of a splendid, comfortable life on the plantation, had urged his brother-in-law to plant fruit trees and raise a garden. In fact, Austin himself was always gathering new varieties of peaches, plums, grapes, figs, and other fruits and trees to send home, even from Mexico. In 1839 one Holsteine was employed as "gaurdner from 1st Feby to 10th Sept." He was paid \$140 for his  $7\frac{1}{2}$  months of service. On December 16, 1840, a "sparrigrass" (asparagus) bed was planted, as well as varieties of fruits. In this year it was planned to have a row of fruit trees on each side of the road from the house to the gate. Gage and damson plums, peaches, apricots, figs, and pears were already growing, and Perry indicated from which trees he wished sprouts taken for the new orchard. In 1843 Guy M. Bryan wrote of the garden,

It has been perfectly green throughout the whole of the winter. It is pleasant to a *sore-eyed man* to wander in the *dead of winter* through walks embowered with roses & fragrant shrubs of every kind & colour, to meet at every turn the orange the vine the fig & pomegranate, all of which abound in my mother's yard, the products of our genial clime & mother's guardian care.<sup>83</sup>

The place then presented a great contrast to that described by Austin in 1836 as "still in the primitive log cabbins and wild shrubbery of the forest."<sup>84</sup>

<sup>83</sup>Bryan to Hayes, January 21, 1843. THE QUARTERLY, XXV, 104.

<sup>84</sup>Austin to Ficklin, October 30, 1836. Austin Papers.

Mrs. Perry, the mistress of this pleasant home, was a woman of culture and education, trained at "The Hermitage," a fashionable school for young ladies in New York. Her husband was a man of strong intelligence and public spirit, a factor in the economic progress of Texas from his arrival in 1831 to his death in 1853. Her son, Guy M. Bryan, was a graduate of Kenyon College, at Gambier, Ohio, where his brother Stephen Perry was also a student. Henry Perry, the youngest brother was a graduate of Trinity College, at Hartford, Connecticut. In 1848 Rutherford B. Hayes, Bryan's classmate and bosom friend, visited the plantation, and through extracts from his diary and comments of his biographer we can see how it impressed him:

The House was beautifully situated on the edge of the timber, looking out upon a prairie on the south, extending five or eight miles to the Gulf, with a large and beautiful flower garden in front

Social life here afforded no end of entertainment—balls and parties rapidly followed one another, the guests riding ten, fifteen, and even twenty miles, arriving early in the afternoon, and remaining for nearly twenty-four hours, the great plantation house supplying room for all. "An exceedingly agreeable, gay, and polished company . . . merriment and dancing until 4:30 a. m.—like similar scenes elsewhere. Gentlemen breakfast from 10 till 11:30; all off by 12 o'clock."

January 25 [1849].

Ride with Uncle and Guy over Gulf Prairie to the mouth of the Bernard, to fish and eat oysters. A glorious day. Deer, cattle, cranes, wild geese, brant, ducks, plover, prairie hens, and the Lord knows what else, often in sight at the same time. The roar of the Gulf is heard for miles, like the noise of Niagara. Staked out horses with "lariats," eat old Sailor Tom's oysters, picked up shells, fished and shot snipe until 5 P. M., then rode home through clouds of mosquitoes, thicker than the lice or locusts of Egypt—like the hair on a dog's back. Notice the eagle's nest on the lone tree in the prairie and reach home glad to get away from the mosquitoes.

Tuesday, January 30.—Ride with Mr. Perry over to Sterling McNeal's plantation. A shrewd, intelligent, cynical old bachelor, full of "wise saws and modern instances"; very fond of telling his own experience and talking of his own affairs. Living alone he has come to think he is the "be all" and "end all" here. The haughty and imperious part of a man develops rapidly on one of these lonely sugar plantations, where the owner rarely meets with any except his slaves and minions. Sugar hogsheads vary from 1100 to 1800 lbs. White and black mechanics all work

together. White men generally dissolute and intemperate. Returned, found Uncle Birchard returned from Oyster Creek, with the trophy of a successful onslaught upon a tiger cat. Glorious weather. One little shower.

Monday, February 5.—Cold and clear. Forenoon spent with Stephen and the ladies—music and flirting. Afternoon rode up to Major Lewis's. Three agreeable young ladies; music, singing, and dancing—city refinement and amusement in a log cabin on the banks of the Brazos, where only yesterday the steam whistle of a steamboat was mistaken for a panther.<sup>85</sup>

It was in 1848, probably in preparation for the visit of this guest who was later to be President of the United States, that Mrs. Perry ordered silver ware "not to cost over \$400," with Austin's seal to be engraved on each article. The service included coffee pot, tea pot, sugar bowl, cream pot, slop bowl, four ivory salt spoons, and one dozen each of tea spoons, dessert spoons, dining forks and dessert forks.<sup>86</sup>

Finally a word needs to be said of the two old volumes which form the principal source of this study. They are mildewed blurred, and faded, so that the task of deciphering them is, in many places, extremely difficult. The memoranda which they contain were written for the use of the planter, without thought of the historian. Many aspects of life on the plantation which we should like to see in a day to day commonplace record are lacking, simply because to the writer they were commonplace. As it is, however, this is the only known contemporary record of an ante-bellum Texas plantation. There may be others—even more complete ones—in neglected family archives, but they are not available. One likes to believe, as in some respects was probably the fact, that Peach Point was a typical Texan slave plantation. It was self-sustaining. There was around it an atmosphere of culture and contentment. The negroes remained long in the family, were apparently treated with consideration, and there is every indication that they were comfortable and happy.

<sup>85</sup>Williams, *Life of Rutherford B. Hayes*, I, 50-51.

<sup>86</sup>Perry to Hammeken, June 9, 1848. Austin Papers. Mrs. Perry sent to New Orleans her mother's service (Mrs. Moses Austin's, that is) to Hyde and Goodrich with coin and silver, and it was converted and made larger. The original service had been smaller and plainer.—Note by Mrs. Hally Bryan Perry.

# APPENDIX I

## SPECIMEN PAGES OF COTTON PICKING RECORD, 1845

August	5	6	7	8	9	11	12	13	14
Allen	140	63	107			107	138	117	130
Bill			155	87		257	270	248	290
Ben									
Bob	292	113	178	265	184	200	232	235	232
Betcey	262	113	117	167	104	169	170		
Beckey		85	118	97	91	84	115	118	185
Clenen									
Caroline	309	145	243	254	255	262	282	276	265
Chaney	125	100	191	108					64
Charlot	219	110	164	148	161	151	165	180	186
George	301		173	219	215	215	246		
John	231		126	137				101	155
John Jack				166	125	144	152	166	167
Lowey	289	115	186	161	175	224	221	235	221
Mary		92	168		164	182	182	176	182
Ned									
Peter				145	77	263	291	288	265
Purnell	258		140		145	142	126	150	138
Robert							86	60	90
Silvey						94	108	25	
Westley						93	150	110	85
Sam									
Prairie Field	2426								
Fine Cotton		823							
Timbered Field			2066	1940	1696	2597	2934	2579	2888

August	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	24	26
Allen	136	155	150	147	147	167	165	140	148
Bill	320	285	295	331	295	287	279	280	287
Ben					185	205	200	194	
Bob	222	245	165		251	255	238	205	268
Betcey		155	145	138	60	196	200	205	206
Beckey					133	126	151	134	160
Clenen	110	165	200	207	192	177	160	164	160
Caroline	307	295	110		344	301	315	333	345
Chaney	147	185		72	227	208	231	296	41
Charlot	214	180	215	195	201	200	185	235	202
George			56	141	159	204	208	290	285
John	125	175	215	198	203	211	180	200	211
John Jack	160	160	160	154	181	167	163	200	170
Lowey	267	258	294	319	307	304	234	233	330
Mary	207	200	211	196	200	200	212	205	220
Ned			210	196	200	200		222	191
Peter	312	301	301	302	355	310	315	312	402
Purnell	157	147	170	210	205	180	160	174	190
Robert	50	45	60	65	65	60		85	100
Silvey	98	95	140	154	160	137	164	137	130
Westley	119	123	140	165	165	154	130	120	155
Prairie Field							3936	4312	4379
Fine Cotton				1000	4173	4076			
Timbered Field	3023	3129	3186	2105					

## SPECIMEN PAGES OF COTTON PICKING RECORD, 1845

August— September	27	28	29	30	31	2	3	4	5
Allen	162	170	160	106	71	132	148	153	152
Bill	62	357	300	245	155	267	249	259	259
Ben	185	243	212	170	95				
Bob	259	328	312	212	119	252	249	247	232
Betcey	195	266	260	180	86	174	195	178	201
Beckey	180		146	130	91		116	151	
Cleney	174	182	113	126	79				
Caroline	344	400	352	291	161	265	274	288	294
Chaney	200	255	228	161		84	163	185	154
Charlot	180	214	195			160	185	182	151
George	285	360	329	235	92	250	248	265	271
John	185	217	222	159	71	166	192	180	176
John Jack	185	230	216	18	885	149	137	152	200
Lowey	321	387	330	314	165	214	232	222	249
Mary	190	271	245	136	906	171	191	196	193
Ned	210	211	218	176	96				
Peter	359	407	350	319	165		279	284	300
Purnell			171	58	59	168	175	209	211
Robert	116	82	81	72	38	75	183	100	
Silvey	114	162	137			130	122	128	110
Westley	150	165	153	130	771	135	148	131	117
Prairie Field	4000	5143	4752	3397	1725				
Fine Cotton						2722	3386	3351	3301
Timbered Cotton									

September	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	15	16
Allen	157	140	155	148	176	152	157	141	135
Bill	285	260	300	262	314	280	281	254	229
Ben									
Bob	174	132		100	170	243	272	255	238
Betcey	284	182	235	240	241	217	230	202	182
Beckey	106			147	180	170	171		77
Cleney									
Caroline	326	306	302	151		216	161	274	
Chaney	179	147	180	185		125	218	194	195
Charlot	190	178	218			182	206	188	181
George	292	264	267	239	295	266	278	211	237
John	200	175	224	205	194	205	202	200	181
John Jack	262	180	151	191	191	191	185	165	165
Lowey	205	275	301	279	( )	295	242	247	251
Mary	132	1—	204	195	122	204	231	188	171
Ned		212	234	88	90				
Peter	326	301	327	326	341	337	305	276	250
Purnell	230	200	205	206	221	212	197	175	171
Robert	100	85	90	106	97		88		
Silvey	142	142	150	137	164	130	150	121	113
Westley	161	150	149	150	175	153	71		
Prairie Field									
Fine Cotton	3831	3512	3695	1404	3610	3578	604		
Timbered Field				1784			2972	3092	2712

## APPENDIX II

### STEPHEN S. PERRY'S JOURNAL OF 1848

The spelling, punctuation, and form of the original journal have been retained as nearly as possible.

Journal Kept By Stephen S. Perry during the year 1848

Month & Day	Occupation	Delinquencys
January the 16	Gin is runing Making rails thering down and rebuilding fences—	Allin Sick
17	Making fence, cleaning the gutters, shelling corn—Gin runing	Allen Sick 1
18	Tearing down and rebuilding fences. Cut down the hedge in the Prairy field— Making rails Gin runing until nine oc at night	Bill Sick—1 Allen “ 1
19	Taring down and rebuilding fences.	Ben and Chaney sick 1 Allin “ 1
20	Taring down and rebuilding fences—	Allin Sick 1
21 22	Finished rebuilding fences in the Prairy field,	Allin Sick 1
20	Mrs. Jack's Tom commenced work	
22	Making cotton bailes, (made 16,) carryin Cotton into gin house	Allin sick 1
23	Sunday—	Allen Sick 1
24	Weighing cotton bailes, shelling corn	Allen sick 1
25	Making Ben's chimley	Allin sick 1
26	Finished Ben's chimley. Commenced rebuilding fence in the Bottom field	Allen sick Mary and Ben sick
27	Killed sixteen Hogs, cut them up and salted, part of the hands was occupied carrying cotton from the pens into the Gin Hous. Gin runing All savd and cured	Mary and Ben Allen sick Bill half a day sick— Silvey sick afternoon
28	Killed Fifteen Hogs. Cut them up and salted part of the hands was ocupied carrying cotton from the pens into the Gin House, Gin running all savd and cured	Allen sick
29	Shelling corn all hands continued building fence.	Allen sick
30	Sunday	Allen sick
31	Taring down and rebuilding fences. Hunting sowes and pigs, put nine sowes with about forty young pigs in the Prairy field,	Allen sick
Febru- ary the 1	Kill'd Sixteen hogs this morning cut them and salted, continue making fence, with the women	Allen sick George “



Month & Day	Occupation	Delinquencies
2	Making fence and splitting railes Shiped to Aycock's landing fifteen sacks of corn, containing 40 bushels to be sent to Judge Low Galveston	George sick Allen sick
3	Making and splitting railes, continue building fence	Alen sick
4	Making cotten bails, made fifteen bailes carrying cotton in to the Gin,	Allen sick
5	Continued to bail Made seven bales, weighed, and shiped eleven to Mr Aycocks Landing Making fence, gin stoped today	Allen sick
6	Sunday	
7	Finished building the back string of fence in the Bottom field Shiped eleven bailes of cotton to Mr Aycocks Landing	Alen and Mary sick
8	Commenced pulling cotton stocks, and cleaning up the corn ground,	Allen and Mary sick,
9	Continued to pull and roll Cotton Stocks, And Cleaning up Corn Ground,	
9	Ploughes commenced today, the 9. of February	
10	Three Ploughs running, Cleaning up cotton stocks,	
11	Ploughing and cleaning up ground,	
12	Ploughing	
13	Ploughing	
14	Ploughing and braking down cotton stocks,	
15	Ploughing and braking down cotten stocks. Father with four of the men, has been repairing the Cotton press. Finished Gining today	Becksy commenced working in the field to day stoped working in the field the 7 of February
16	Ploughing and braking down cotton stocks &c &c	
17	Commenced planting corn, Continue to brake up land—	
18	Planting corn braking up land	
19	Planting corn	
20	Sunday	
21	Planting corn and braking up land	
22	Planting corn and Ploughing	
23	Planting corn and Ploughing	
24	Planting corn and Ploughing	
25	Finished planting corn this morning Braking up land and braking down cotten stocks	George sick Silvy commenced work today having miss one week
26	Ploughing; throwing up cotten ridges in the bottom field, the ground is too hard to plough in the Prairy field, braking down cotton stocks Commence minding birds corn coming up	Ben sick Allen sick

Month & Day	Occupation	Delinquencies
27	Sunday	
28	Making cotton ridges braking down cotton stocks and minding birds	
29	Making cotton ridges cleaning up the suger cane ground minding birds —	Tom sick
March 1	Braking up potatoe ground and making cotton ridges. Minding birds. Commence planting cotton to day about twelve oc	Tom Sick
2	Ploughing up potato ground and making cotton ridges finished cleaning up the suger ground minding birds corn coming up very slow.	
3	Braking up cotton ridges planting cotton, Making Potato hills and cleaning out ditches in the bottom field west of the Gin,	
4	Making cotton ridges plowing cotton Making potato hills Minding birds	
5	Sunday	
6	Commenced Ploughing in the Prairy field, very good ploughing since the rain. Setting out Potato slipes Planting cotton in the bottom field—	Betsy sick this afternoon George absent to day Westly absent Silvy working in the garden
7	Braking up cotton ground in the Prairy field. Planting Potatoes	Silvy absent
8	Braking up cotton ridges in the Prairy field Cutting up cotton stocks. Planting Potatoes	Silvy absent George absent
9	Braking up cotten ridges in the Prairy field Cutting up Cotten stocks. Commenced Planting Cotten in the Prairy field to day	Silvy absent to day George absent
10	Finished ploughing the Prairie field and also the bottom part, planting cotton in the Prairy part, finished planting sweet potatoes Minding birds corn not all up yet—	Clenon absent from the field Bob sick George absent
11	Commenced ploughing on the north side of the turn row, next to the house in the bottom field Planting cotten in the prairy field	George absent
12	Sunday, no work don on Sunday	
13	Braking up cotton land on the west side of the turn-row next to the house Planting cotten now Cotten commence comming up	
14	Braking up cotten ridges in the Bottem field. Cotten coming up	
15	Planting cotten in the bottom field on the west side of the turnrow. Commenced braking out the middles Finished making cotten ridges	
16	Making cotten bales	Mary Ann Sick
17	Finished making cotten bales the last of this years crop Ploughing out the middles	
18, 19 & 20, 21	Absent from home Cotton coming in the Prairy field	

Month & Day	Occupation	Delinquencies
22	Braking out the middles in the Bottom field, Making a ditch the whole length of the string of fence in the Prairy runing East and West, cleaning out other Ditches, making fences in the around the paster—	John sick Mary Ann sick
23	Commence ploughing corn Cleaning out ditches	Mary Ann Sick John Sick
24	Ploughin corn, commence hoing corn to day, (we did not harrow our corn this year. I do not think we did right) We smothered down the ridges with the hoes	Mary Ann Sick John Sick Clenon Sick
25	Ploughing and hoing corn	John and Mary Ann Sick
26	Sunday	John & Mary Ann Sick
27	Ploughing and hoing corn	John Mary Ann Peter Sick
28	Finished Ploughing & hoing corn on the cut north of the Ditch	John Peter Mary Ann Sick Ben
28	Ploughing and hoing corn sournth of the ditch. A very good stand of corn on both cuts	John Peter Ben Mary Ann sick
29	Ploughing and hoing corn	John Mary Ann Beckey
30	Ploughing and hoing corn Sweet-Potatoes cuming up.	John Mary Ann & Beckey Tom all sick
31	Ploughing and hoing corn Commenced ploughing cotton	Beckey sick

Synopsis of the months of January February and March,—

The months of January February and March have been exceedingly favorable to the Planters in this Latitude. Very little rain for the the last four or five years, the Winter and fall has been noted for dryness: The sun has been obscured the greater part of the months of February and March. Heavy clouds have constantly been threatening us with a deluge, the atmosphere; in consequence of this and the coold winds blowing almost constant from the north & south also the heavy dews at night with the few refreshing showers that have fallen. This keeps the earth moist & mellow & in a good condition too *moisten* the seed and bringing forth vegetation. The field is in good condition to work, all (except the prairy part which requires heavy rains being very stiff land the soil will not undergo filtering like the [bottoms] on account of the few rains and strong winds The atmosphere has become impure which has produced sickness among the negroes. they complain principally of pains in the breast and sides—rhumatisoms &c &c &c— The months of February and March has

been practically dry. We commenced Ploughing on the ninth of February. The ground was in an excellent condition and broke up well, we had very little rain during this month not sufficient to prevent the Ploughs from runing On the 22 of March we finished braking up the whole plantation (the middles in both cotten & corn ground) the ground was in excellent condition. Commence planting corn on the 17 day of February. Finished ploughing [planting] corn on the 25 *Feb.* Corn up on the 26. Commenced Minding birds on the 26 Febr—commenced planting cotton on the, 1, of *March* Commenced planting cotten in the Prairry field on the 9 of March. Finished planting cotton on the 26 March Cotton up on the 14 of March. Commence running round the cotten with a one horse plough on the 31 of March. hoes commenced on the 2 of April.

Commenced ploughing corn on the 23 of March hoing corn on the 24, of March, Finished hoing and ploughing on the 31.

Planting potatoes on the seventh of March finished Planting on the 10 of March. Potatoes coming up on the 26 of March—  
Stephen S. Perry

Delinquences during the months from the 17 January to the [first] of April.

Number of days sick—

Allen	24
Bill	Day and one-halfe
Silvey	Sick 1
George	" 3
May Ben	" 4
Ben	" 3
Tom	" 3
Clenen	" 2
Mary Ann	" 11
John	" 9
Peter	" 2
Bob	" 1
Beckey	" 3

[On a slip of paper attached to the last sheet of the Synopsis was the following:]

Silvy absent from the field Days working at the house

	Days
Silvey	11
George absent	4
Becky working at the house	14
Wesly absent	1

April	Occupation	Delinq
1	Ploughing cotten finished hoing	Beckey absent
2	Sunday	
3	Ploughing cotten and hoing cotten	Beckey Wesley Robert absent
4	Ploughing cotten and hoing cotten	George absent
5	Ploughing and hoing cotten	Mary sick
6	Ploughing and hoing cotten	George absent
7	Ploughing and hoing cotton The corn and Cotten want rain Corn wants rain worse than the cotten	George absent
8	Ploughin cotten and hoing cotten in the bottom field	George absent
9	Sunday No working to day	
10	Ploughing and hoing cotten Finished Ploughing Cotten in Bottom field, Commenced Ploughing in Bottom part of the Prairy field.	Beckey absent
11	Ploughing and hoing cotten Cleaning out the well in the pasture	Beckey Tom Simon absent from the field
12	Ploughing and hoing cotten finished in the Bottom field, hoing potatoes Finished Cleaning out the well in the pasture	Tom Simon Doctor cleaning out the well
13	Commenced scraping Cotton in the Prairy field. Ploughin cotten in the Prairy field	Beckey absent
14	Ploughing and hoing cotten	Beckey absent
15	Ploughing cane and hoing cotten First time the cane has been ploughed this year	Beckey absent
16	Sundy	
17	Finished hoing cotten, hoing and ploughing cane Need left this morning for Chocolet (Sam coming in his place)	Beckey absent Ben sick
18	Commenced ploughing corn hilling it up and ploughing out the middles. Corn looks very well indeed wants rain very much good stand in all of it except the cotten ground replant not all come up	Ben Beckey Betsey sick Silvey absent
19	Ploughing corn seven ploughs runing Commenc hoing this morning about 10 Oc Robert left for Choclet on the 17 of April With Need carryed two mules with him	Betsey Beckey Sick Silvey absent
20	Ploughing and hoing corn	Betsey Beckey sick Silvey absent
21	Very cloudy this morning Ploughing and hoing corn	Betsey Beckey sick Silvey absent
22	Ploughing and hoing corn	Betsey Beckey Allin Sick
23	Sundy	
24	Ploughing and hoing corn	
25	Ploughing and hoing corn	
26	Wednesday. Rained from 10 oc AM to one. Wet the ploughed ground about 2 inches.	

April	Occupation	Delinquences
27	Thursday. fair (finished hoing corn 3 o'clock P.M.)	
28	Friday—Cloudy in the morning fair prospect for Rain Rained in the night hard	
29	Saturday. Set out Sweet Potato Sprouts with 8 hands. 1 Hand Cooking old Sarah Sick 2 Hands Halling wood 2 hands Grinding in the afternoon driving up Cows & Calves 3 Hands work on the Road between Crosbys and Brazoria by order of Majr. J. P. Caldwell overseer	
May 1	Monday May 1st. 4 ploughs started again in Cotten plowing Cotten on the cut N.E. of Gin 12 Hoe Hands finished seting out potatoes before Breckfast, and went to replanting Cotten in the Prairie field—at least one third missing	
2	Tuesday 2 11 Hands finished Replanting Cotten in prairie field againt Breckfast and went to Hoeing Cotten in the Cut N.E. of Gin—1 Hand Bob with Caraige to Canney	
3	Wednesday 3 Ploughing Cotten with the shovl plogh and runing around with a one horse plough, hoing cotten cutting the Cotton out to a stand Ploughed the potatoes	
4	Thursday 4 Finished ploughing with the shovel plough to day in the bottom field. Commenced with the two shovel. Ploughes in the Prairy field. Ploughing with one horse plough. Cutting the Cotten out to a stand fine prospects for a good crop of cotten. corn tassoling	
5	Friday 5 Ploughing Cane and Cotten Finished ploughing cane to day	
6	Ploughing Cotten in the Prairy field hoing cotten out to a stand in the bottom field	
7	Sunday	
8	Ploughing cotten in the Prairy field Commenc Cut- ting the Cotten out to a stand in the Prairy field	Mary sick
9	Ploughing and hoing cotten in the Prairy field Cotten coming up in the prairy part since the rain in the hard places think that I will get a tollerable good stand	Mary sick
10	Finished Ploughing in the Prairy field to day. Com- menc ploughing out the middles with the sweeps on that Cut next to the Corn on the south side of the gin, hoing the cotten out to a stand in the prairy field	May & Bill Sick
11	Ploughing cotten Finished hoing cotten in the prairy field. Commen hoing that Cut South of the Gin next to the Corn—	
12	Ploughing corn, Commenc hoing corn to day	
13	Sunday	
14	Ploughing and hoing Corn	Wesly Sick
15	Ploughing corn on the north side of the ditch, hoing Corn on the South side of the ditch	Wesly Sick
16	Ploughing and hoin corn	Wesly Sick
17	Ploughing and hoing corn	Wesly Sick

May	Occupation	Delinquences
18	Finished Ploughing the Corn to day about 12 o.c Commenc braking out the Cotten Ground	Wesly Sick
19	hoing corn and Ploughing cotten	Wesly Sick
20	hoing Corn and Ploughing Cotten on the West side of the gin	Wesly Sick
21	Sunday	
22	Houing corn part of the day, commenc hoing potatoes about nine Oc Ploughing Cotten, on the west side of the gin,	Ben sick Bill sick Wesly sick
23	Hoing Potatoes and ploughing Cotten on the West side of the gin	Ben sick Wesley sick
24	Ploughing cotten and hoing Potatoes until (nine) of (ten Oc) Making potatoe ridges in the corn	Tom sick Wesly sick
25	Finished running around the Cotten on the north eist side of the gin hoing Cotten on the North east side of the gin	Tom sick Wesly sick
26	Ploughing cotten in the Prairy field hoing cotten on the east side of the gin	Wesly sick
27	Finished Ploughing the Cott'en in the bottom part of the Prairy field—hoing Cotten on the east side of the Gin north of the midle turn row and south of the Potatoe patch Killed a beef this morning	
28	Sunday	
29	Ploughing cotten on the south east side of the gin north of the turn row hoing cotten there also (Cotten boles Cottin boles)	
30	Finished Ploughing the cut on the south side of the gine and north of the turnrow Commenc ploughing out the midles on the other side of the turnrow	Tom run off
31	Ploughing out the middles on the same side of the turn row, Howing corn	Tom run off
	Absent from home untill the seventh of June	Tom run off
Month of June 7	Ploughing cotten in the Prairy field, runing out the middles, hoing cotten, Ploughing cane with a double horse Plough—	Tom come in
8	Finished Ploughing and hoing the Prairy cottin to day about Twelve and one Oc Ploughing the slip potatoes also hoing the Potatoes, Commenc braking out the midles in the bottom field on the north side of the gin to the right of the middle turn row,	
9	having rained all night was too wet to hoe the potatoes or plough Cotten, spent part of the day hoing cane having rained halfe of the day assorting the corn from the shucks and shelling corn to grind	
10	Plough hands hoing cane until breakfast time, they then cut wood untill dinner time Doctor and Allen halling wood & cotten. Bill's gang hoing cane all day. Ploughs commenc runing after dinner,	
11	Sunday	
12	Commenc ploughing out the midles north of the slue and on the right of the gin next to the corn hoing potatoes	

June	Occupation	Delinquences
13	Finished Ploughing the cut of cotton on the right of the gine and north of the slue Ploughing the cut south of the gin and on the left of the turnrow going down Finished hoing potatoes and Commenc hoing the cotton following the Ploughs, Fine cotton nearly as high as my hand Bold hoed out the turnrow and as fare down as the gin	Becky sick
14	Ploughs stoped on account of the rain hands have been employed a variety of ways some carrying shuck some getting board timber and some hoing down the the large weeds in the fields Cleaned the ridge where the Bo dark is planted	
15	Four hands getting board timber Three of the hand gon halfe of the day after basket timber Clonen and Allen halling board timber the other halfe Bob with John and Simon was together with Bill's gang hoing cotton very wet hoing	Carlin sick
16	Commenc ploughing this morning six ploughs runing and two sweeps Finished hoing the Cotton cut next to the corn and north of the slue	Carolyn sick
17	Ploughing cotton hoing cotton south of the slew and next to the corn—Wesly has a sore shine which is nearly well, we have been doctering him by applying a plaster of fresh cow menure which is very good—	
18	Sunday Sunday	
19	Ploughing and hoing cotton south of the gine hoing on the right hand side of the turnrow Ploughing on the other side—	John sick this morning
20	Finished Ploughing out the midles today about (—) Oc. I have Ploughed out all the middles on the Plantation all hands hoing the cut on the south side of the gin and west of the turnrow. Two sweeps runing on the cut West of the gin and South of the ditch	
21	Two sweps runing, all the rest of the hand hoing excep Ben who is making bords	
22	Two sweeps runing so the rest of the hands are hoing cotton, having finished that cut south and west of the gin, Commenced hoing on the west side and of the gin and north of the slue,	
23	Two swep runing after two Ploughs hoing cotton and Ben is making boards, Droped the sweep today about 12 Oc	
24	Droped the sweeps and commenced ploughing again, finished this cut to day about 12 Oc hoing cotton with the remainder of the hands in this same cut,	
25	Sunday	
26	Commenced ploughing out the middles in the cut south of the slew next to the corn and on the east side of the gin Hoing the cut north of the slew and east of the gin, Three sweeps runing in the Prairy field	
27	Three sweeps runing in the prairy field Sam, Tom, and Bob Finished hoing cotton Wednesday the 26 hoed out the turnrow hoing potatoes in the corn cutting down the weeds in the corn	
28	Sweep runing, Cutting down weeds in the corn	
30	Sweeps running in the Prairy field, Cutting out the weeds in the Prairy field—	



June	Occupation	Delinquences
August the 17	Picking cotton in the Bottom field Commenced yesterday on the cut south of the gin and east of the turn-row	
19	All hands commenc picking cotton to day the first fair day we have had since I have commen[ced] picking—	Georg sick
October the 11, 1848	Stoped picking cotton We have picked, 154188	
November 1	We had a light frost the first this year.	
November the, 4,	We had frost quite heavy	
November the 5	Very heavy frost the suger cane was Killed on the fourth of November I commenced cutting cane on the 4 of November	
November the 6	Frost not quite so heavy as the night before cane all killed,	
Nov the	Finished cutting cane	
November the 21, 1848	Finished diging potatoes The Potatoes turned out very well this year—	
November the 24,	The gin commenced running—	

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